

Amendments to the Claims:

The following claims will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

Claims 1-2 (canceled)

Claim 3 (currently amended): A pre-cast polyacrylamide slab gel for use in slab gel electrophoresis, said pre-cast gel comprising:

a pair of chemically inert, transparent plates with inner surfaces coated with in accordance with claim 1 in which said nonionic amphiphilic polymer is polyethylene glycol; and

a polyacrylamide gel cast between said plates.

Claims 4-6 (canceled)

Claim 7 (currently amended): A pre-cast polyacrylamide slab gel for use in slab gel electrophoresis, said pre-cast gel comprising:

a pair of chemically inert, transparent plates with inner surfaces coated with a nonionic amphiphilic polymer;

in accordance with claim 1 further comprising a coating of polyvinylidene chloride between each plate and said coating of nonionic amphiphilic polymer; and a polyacrylamide gel cast between said plates.